

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/785,528

REMARKS

Formalities

Applicant thanks the examiner for acknowledging receipt and accepting the drawings that were filed on February 20, 2001. Also, the specification has been objected to for having a title that is not descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed. In response, Applicant has amended the title of the invention as noted above.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-11 are all the claims pending in the application and all claims presently stand rejected. Claims 1, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. (USP 5,770,900) in view of Torimoto (USP 4,720,646); Claims 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Torimoto as applied to claims 1, 6 and 9, and further in view of Hollenbeck et al. (USP 5,986,379); Claims 3, 4, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Torimoto as applied to claims 1, 6 and 9, and further in view of Maeno et al. (USP 5,585,685); and Claims 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Torimoto as applied to claims 1, 6 and 9, and further in view of “common knowledge in the art.”

At least because the cited prior art references fail to teach or suggest the terminal holder and the annular conductors and insulating layers, as recited in independent claim 1, the terminal holder and annular electric conductors, as recited in independent claim 6, and the annular conductors and insulating layers, as recited in independent claim 9, Applicant respectfully

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traverses the prior art rejections and requests favorable reconsideration and disposition of all claims, claims 1-11.

Discussion

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

a terminal holder fixed to said flange portion of said bobbin-shaped insulator and provided with a cylinder portion arranged so as to surround said rotary shaft; and

annular conductors and insulating layers arranged on outer diameter side of the cylinder portion of said terminal holder and laminated alternately in axial direction;

In regard to the rejection of claim 1 as being obvious in view of the teachings of Sato et al. and Torimoto, the examiner has failed to set forth a prima facie case of obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103. For example, the examiner has not identified any structural components from either of the asserted references that meet the recited requirements of the *terminal holder*. In fact, in the grounds of rejection the examiner has completely ignored the claimed terminal holder of claim 1. The terminal holder recited in independent claim 6 was similarly ignored by the examiner. For at least this reason, the §103 rejection of claims 1 and 6 and all claims dependent thereon, specifically, claims 2-5 and 7-8, respectively, should be withdrawn.

The absence of any assertion by the examiner that either Sato et al. or Torimoto teach or suggest the claimed terminal holder is not surprising, however, in view of the fact that neither reference discloses any structural component fixed to a flange of a bobbin-shaped insulator and which has a cylinder portion that surrounds the rotary shaft. Therefore, the proposed combination of Sato et al. and Torimoto does not render obvious, under 35 U.S.C. §103, the

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limitations claimed in either of claims 1 or 6. For this additional reason, the rejection of claims 1 and 6, as well as claims 2-5 and 7-8, respectively, should be withdrawn.

Each of claims 1-5 also require *annular conductors and insulating layers* arranged on the outer diameter of the cylinder portion of a terminal holder. The conductors and insulating layers must also be laminated in the axial direction. The examiner asserts that conductors 34a of Sato et al., as modified by the teachings of Torimoto, meet this recited requirement. Applicant respectfully disagrees, however, at least because structure 34a in Sato et al. is described at column 5, lines 6-7, as “protruding portions 34a on the outer surface of the flange 30”. Structure 34a is, thus, not a conductor, as required by the claims and, furthermore, structure 34a is not laminated in the axial direction with annular insulating layers. Also, contrary to the assertions of the examiner, the conductors (4) disclosed in Torimoto are not annular. Thus, even if the teachings of Torimoto were combined with those of Sato et al., the result would not meet the requirements of the claims. For these additional reasons the proposed combination of references does not teach or suggest the limitations recited by claims 1-5 and, accordingly, the rejection to these claims should be withdrawn.

In claims 6-8, the annular conductors must be stored in grooves on the outer diameter of the cylinder portion of the terminal holder. Nothing in the asserted references teach or suggest this required limitation and, accordingly, the rejection of claims 6-8 should be withdrawn.

Lastly, in regard to claims 9-11, as described above, neither Sato et al. nor Torimoto teach or suggest the recited annular connectors and insulating layers. Contrary to the examiner’s assertions, Sato et al. does not disclose conductors laminated to insulating layers in the axial

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direction and, furthermore, Torimoto does not disclose annular conductors or annular insulators.

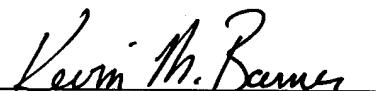
For at least this reason, the rejection of claims 9-11 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, and because none of the additional asserted references compensate for the deficiencies of Sato et al. and Torimoto, the application is believed to be in form for immediate allowance with claims 1-11, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to **contact the undersigned** at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin M. Barner
Kevin M. Barner
Registration No. 46,075

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

The title is changed as follows:

ELECTRIC MOTOR WITH IMPROVED TERMINAL CONNECTOR